



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New Orleans District

Project Fact Sheet

Official Project Name

CAP - Lafayette, LA Flood Control Feasibility Study

Location

The study area is located in south central Louisiana, approximately 50 miles west of Baton Rouge, and includes all 270 square miles of Lafayette Parish and portions of St. Martin Parish.

Purpose

As a result of the January 1993 storm event, major flooding caused significant damages in the study area. Similar damages occurred as a result of Hurricane Andrew on August 27, 1992. Both events prompted the Governor of Louisiana to declare a state of emergency for Lafayette Parish.

The purpose of the study was to investigate measures to reduce flooding and associated flood damages in Lafayette and St. Martin Parishes, Louisiana and to determine the Federal interests in providing flood damage reduction solutions.

Background

Major flooding has been reported in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana due to storm events and high river stages along the Vermilion River. Approximately 300 homes experienced water damage as a result of the 1993 flood. Local interests have made improvements to the flood control system, however damages continue to occur. In 1994, as a result of recurring floods and a limited availability of local funds, Lafayette Parish officials that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN) investigate the feasibility of reducing flood damages in Lafayette Parish.

In June 1995, CEMVN completed a reconnaissance study of flood damage reduction in Lafayette Parish, and determined that further study in the nature of a "Feasibility Phase Study" was required to assess the extent of the Federal interest in participating in a solution to the flooding problem.

Authority

The Lafayette Parish, Louisiana Flood Control Feasibility Study was initiated from the Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act of 1996. This legislation directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and provided funds to initiate a feasibility study. In Senate Report 104-120, the Appropriations Committee stated:

“Lafayette Parish, LA. The Committee has included an additional \$200,000 for the Corps of Engineers to complete the reconnaissance phase and initiate the feasibility phase of the Lafayette Parish, LA study.”

In March 25, 1996, USACE entered into a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) to initiate the feasibility study for the amount of \$4,432,000. Lafayette Parish contributed \$50,000. The Federal cost sharing of the feasibility study phase was funded with general investigation funds (GI).

Scope

This feasibility study investigated potential solutions to reduce flooding in Lafayette Parish caused by heavy rainfall and high stages on the Vermilion River. Impacts on adjacent parishes, as a result of proposed solutions, were also considered. Thus, solutions investigated to address flood problems were limited to those that would not worsen existing flood problems elsewhere. Alternative measures that were evaluated during this study include: structural alternatives such as diversion of flood waters; retention/detention basins; channel modifications; removal of channel obstructions; levees and pump stations; flood control structures; and non-structural alternatives. Environmental acceptability of the potential solutions was also addressed.

Progress to Date

The feasibility report was forwarded to the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) for review and approval in December 2005, and for implementation as Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Section 205 project. The CAP would allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District to advance the project into the construction phase more quickly than a general investigations project since specific congressional authorization and funding appropriation would not be needed.

The request for conversion of the Lafayette Parish, Flood Control project, from General Investigation to the Continuing Authorities Program, Section 205 authority was approved in February 2005.

The final feasibility report is being reviewed at MVD.

Partner/Sponsor

Lafayette Parish Consolidated Government (www.lafayettela.gov)